

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

ACDA-19 RSR-01 /125 W

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O R 271040Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3827

INFO COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: FONMIN'S COMMENTS ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 872

1. FONMIN TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO APOLOGIZE FOR TELLING THE LONDON TIMES REPORTER THAT HE PERSONALLY WANTED TO SEE THE IDF REMOVED "BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR". HE SAID HE WAS PROVOKED INTO MAKING THIS STATEMENT AND THAT IT DID NOT REPRESENT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AT ALL. HE SAID THE TIMES REPORTER HAD GOTTEN HIM ANGRY AND HE HAD STUMBLED OVER HIS "INADEQUATE ENGLISH" WITH THE RESULT THAT THIS UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT CAME OUT THE WAY IT DID. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO CONVEY TO THE TIMES REPORTER THE COALITION GOVT PLATFORM ON THE BASE ISSUE AND NOTHING MORE. THE FONMIN SAID HE HOPED WE COULD OVERLOOK HIS REMARK AND THAT IT WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASE. HE REITERATED HIS
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TRUE PERSONAL POSITION WAS IN FAVOR OF RETENTION OF A MODIFIED

IDF, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT PUBLICLY SAY THIS WITHOUT CREATING DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE CABINET AND FOR HIMSELF.

2. I THANKED THE FONMIN FOR CALLING ME, BUT SAID THAT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT HIS TRUE FEELING IS WHEN HE MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENTS LIKE THIS. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS MY OPINION THAT HIS STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC ARE MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRO-IDF ELEMENTS TO RESIST THE ANTI-IDF OFFENSIVE OF THE COMMUNISTS NOW GOING ON IN ICELAND. IRVING

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